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Bangalore Mirror

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Just 3 of 12 e-commerce platforms surveyed have a minimum wage policy for gig workers, reveals study

GIG PANG THEORY

'No platform willing to recognise gig workers' collective'

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fairwork India's fifth annual study conducted across 12 e-commerce platforms revealed that only three among them have a minimum wage policy in place to ensure gig workers employed by the platforms earn at least the hourly local minimum wage, after factoring in work-related costs.

The study was conducted by a team of researchers at the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore's Centre for IT and Public Policy.

While the study has noted that three platforms – Bigbasket, Flipkart and Urban Company – have a policy in place to ensure that a minimum wage is earned by the gig worker,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

MART PRODUCTION/PEXELS

"Urgent need for govt to create an employer-employee relationship between e-commerce platforms and gig workers

— Suman Das, member, All India IT & ITeS Employees' Union

Perils of not having a prepaid auto counter

'Auto rickshaw drivers reportedly mob bus passengers as soon as latter alight at Kempegowda bus station'

KAUSHIK JN

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Here is good news for those 'hapless' commuters who are exploited by 'greedy' auto rickshaw drivers at the Kempegowda bus station: a prepaid auto counter is expected to be set up at the bus station for the benefit of passengers who are arriving from other cities and neighbouring states.

Auto rickshaw drivers almost mobbing bus passengers at the bus station as soon as the latter alight from KSRTC or other other bus services has become a routine despite traffic police present on the spot.

Not many auto rickshaw drivers are ready to collect the nominal fare as per the meter. They themselves decide and fix

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Celebrating earth

The Green Literature Festival (GLF) is back with its third edition. Spend a green day out with wildlife authors, graphic novelists, grassroots evangelists, film makers, conservationists, and children's book authors. The festival is one of a kind and dedicated to all forms of literature on the environment. It also features more than a dozen stalls on sustainable products and workshops by WWF India. Register at: https://greenlitfest.com/third-edition-programme/. **Where: Century Club, Cubbon Park; When: November 25; 10 am to 6 pm**

02 Odissi fest

Here's your chance to visit an exclusive festival presenting some of the amazing Odissi performances. Presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (Ministry of External Affairs), Bengaluru Odissi Utsav 2023 is directed by Devjani Sen and founded by Shyamhari Chakra. Entry is free. **Where: auditorium, National Gallery of Modern Art, #49, Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road; When: Sunday, November 26; 10 am to 8 pm**

03 Comedian in town

Get ready to laugh out loud as one of the most popular stand-up comedians, Biswa Kalyan Rath, performs in Bengaluru. Spend an evening full of humour, as his performance is bound to leave you in chuckles. Rath, who is also a writer and YouTuber, graduated in biotechnology from IIT Kharagpur in 2012, and while he was working in the fields of graphic, software, and advertising, he met Kanan Gill at an open mic here in the city. It was then that he became a full-time comedian.
Where: Algorythm, Nexus Shantiniketan Mall
When: November 25; 5 pm onwards

Pillar of strength: Spot your fave sporting icon

Richmond Circle Flyover's pillars feature paintings of cricketing world's greats as part of Brand Bengaluru initiative to develop vacant areas

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If you drive past Richmond Circle, you are sure to see some of Karnataka's sports icons around you. As part of the Brand Bengaluru initiative to thematically develop areas under flyovers, and to celebrate 50 years of naming the State, a new place-making initiative that highlights the state's sporting culture and its icons, aptly called Kreeda Junction, is being developed at the Richmond Circle Flyover.

Vibrant Bengaluru, one of the nine groups working under the Brand Bengaluru initiative, aims to vibrantly beautify the city by reclaiming and restoring areas under flyovers with public participation. This being the first project is still a work-in-progress, and is likely to be completed and inaugurated in a few weeks. The paintings include some of the big names from the cricketing world such as Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, EAS Prasanna, V Subramanya, GR Vishwanath, Syed Kirmani, Roger Binny, Shantha Rangaswamy, BS Chandrasekhar and Javagal Srinath.

These areas under the flyovers, particularly on KH Road had deteriorated into a garbage dump and a public urination spot. The primary purpose of this project is to reclaim these public spaces from filth, and to create a neat, safe, themed space that pedestrians and the general public can visit and spend time at, and also feel a sense of pride about their city and state.

Fans pose to get snaps clicked at the Richmond Circle flyover

This theme was decided as Karnataka is a sporting state and has produced a wide range of elite sports stars across several disciplines over the years. There is no public celebration of the state's sporting heritage and Kreeda Junction aims to fill this gap.

Why this spot?

Five of the city's important sporting venues are located within a mile of the Flyover – Chinnaswamy Stadium (KSCA), Kanteerava Stadium, Karnataka State Hockey Association (KSHA), Bangalore Football Stadium and Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) in Cubbon Park. Kreeda Junction is literally a junction at which all roads lead to these Kreedanganas (sports venues). In addition, several schools with a strong sporting tradition (that host prestigious inter-school tournaments), and that have produced many of the state's icons are located nearby (St Joseph's Boys & Indian High Schools, Bishop Cotton Boys & Girls, Baldwin Boys & Girls, Cathedral, Sacred Heart Girls).

People behind task

This Under Fly Over (UFO) development has been conceived and executed by India Rising Trust (IRT), in partnership with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) as part of the Brand Bengaluru Initiative. IRT is a non-profit that is inspired by the citizen group – The Ugly Indians who have done work in reclaiming pillars of flyovers across Bengaluru for the past decade. IRT has partnered with BBMP under the Adopt-a-Flyover initiative, and this is the 4th UFO area it has thematically developed over the past few years. The previous 3 included Wild Arena at Veerenapalya (opp Manyata Tech Park) themed on Karnatka Wildlife, Bengaluru Margadarshana at Kodigehalli (on ORR, near Hebbal) themed on Bengaluru Road Systems, and City's History and Chaturanga Mantapa at Carmelram Junction on Sarjapur Road themed on Chess.

Aniruddha Abhyankar, Chief Design Officer of IRT, who has been instrumental in conceptualising the design and other place-making projects in the city, said, "All these years these pillars were waiting for an identity, I responded to that need through the concept and design. Now the junction will bring that iconic identity to this neglected public space. 'Beauty and neatness commands respect' is the design principle that I use."

Focus on issues: Child Rights Parliament after 5 years

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Advocate stresses on need to not treat such events as mere entertainment

Plans are afoot to ensure that around 60 children from all parts of the state can discuss with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about the pressing issues related to children's development and welfare. Arrangements are being made to hold the Child Rights Parliament on Tuesday.

The children are expected to raise the issues such as learning recovery, end malnutrition, end child abuse/violence, universal immunisations, and children and climate change. Karnataka is the only state that conducts the Child Rights Parliament with the Chief Minister by inviting the children to Vidhana Soudha.

"The Child Rights Parliament is being held after a gap of five years. Two children from each district are selected to participate. Children have already come to Bengaluru from all the districts except Kodagu and Haveri. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has agreed to participate," said Karnataka Child Observatory State Convenor Dr Vasudeva Sharma NV.

Women and child rights advocate Anjali Ramanna said authorities are not taking such events seriously as the results of the Child Rights Parliament are not up to expectations. "The Child Rights Parliament is a fantastic platform where children bring up many issues. The children always think about the reality and practicality of the issues before bringing them to the notice of elected representatives and the authorities," said Ramanna. She recalled how one student of a government school had spoken about the need to install a CCTV camera at the school building to understand how a playground was being misused by miscreants after school hours. Ramanna said, "The authorities simply select a place adjacent to a government school without knowing how inconvenient it can be for the students and teachers," she said.

According to the organisers, the children have discussed the above issues during the District Child Rights Parliaments.

"Child Rights Parliament, Child Rights Grama Sabha, Children Clubs enable children to participate in debates and interactions. Authorities must strengthen Child Rights Grama Sabhas. Children who participate in the Child Rights Parliament will have a good confidence level. These children will become leaders in future," said Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust.

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Myths, stigma around anal canal problems busted

Doctor takes questions from readers to spread awareness that early treatment makes recovery easier

On World Piles Day, Dr. Parameshwara CM, Founder of SMILES Institute of Gastroenterology, has taken a step forward to raise awareness about anal canal diseases such as piles, fistula, fissures, anal warts, and others. This initiative aims to dispel misconceptions and address the embarrassment associated with these conditions. Early treatment is emphasized to facilitate easy recovery for patients without prolonged suffering.

In a phone-in program hosted by Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka, Dr. Parameshwara debunked myths surrounding anal canal problems. The program received an overwhelming response, with many readers calling in to ask queries about the disease.

According to Dr Parameshwara there are many diseases in the anal canal itself and often patients suffering from these diseases tend to neglect it and come at a later stage for help when it gets unbearable. In the country there are 36% of people that suffer from colorectal issues like constipation, piles, fistula, fissure, polys, colorectal cancer. While over 56% of the people in the country suffer from digestive diseases that include piles, fistula, fissure and other.

■ What is the difference between piles, fistula and fissures?

According to Dr. Parameshwara, "Often, patients suffering from these diseases tend to neglect them and seek help at a later stage when the symptoms become unbearable. In the country, 36% of people suffer from colorectal issues such as constipation, piles, fistula, fissure, polyps, and colorectal cancer. Additionally, over 56% of people in the country suffer from digestive diseases, including piles, fistula, fissure, and others."

Dr. Parameshwara said, "Piles are the swollen collection of blood vessels in the anal region, while fissures are cracks in the lining of the anus, and fistula is an infected tract. Piles can be classified into four grades depending on the severity of the condition, from grade one to grade four. For fistula, one needs to get the right medical treatment, as the condition can reoccur. A person diagnosed with fistula should undergo surgery, or it will keep spreading. Over 2% of fistula cases that are not treated properly may, in the long term, develop into squamous cell carcinoma. In the last three years, I have come across seven cases that have developed cancer due to not receiving the right treatment. In the case of anal fissures, one needs to seek treatment once symptoms start to arise, or it could result in unwanted complications."

Dr Parameshwara also pointed out that people often end up concluding that they have piles when they develop a problem in the anal canal, while it could be multiple other problems.

■ What are the symptoms of piles,fistula, fissure, peri anal abscess.

Dr. Parameshwara explained that in fistula, there is pain and pus discharge. Piles may show symptoms of blood in some cases, while in others, it may not. Other symptoms include a mass hanging around the anus, flesh hanging around the anus, pain, and irritation. For fissures, there is a burning sensation while passing stools and pain during the process. In cases of ulcerative colitis, symptoms include passing stools more than 5-6 times a day, passing blood in stools, passing mucus, and weight loss. Colorectal cancer exhibits symptoms such as alternating constipation and diarrhea, weight loss, loss of appetite, and bleeding in the rectum. For peri-anal abscess, there is sudden pain or fever

■ What are the causes of colorectal problems?

The major causes of colorectal problems are due to changes in lifestyle. With urbanization and modernization, people have forgotten to lead a healthy lifestyle and have adopted a sedentary lifestyle with a lack of physical activities and a tendency to avoid eating healthy and nutritious food. Many, from children to adults, consume packaged foods and junk food like chips, pizzas, burgers, and even eat stored food from the fridge after 3-4 days. The concept of fresh food has nearly disappeared. It is extremely important to maintain a healthy lifestyle by drinking plenty of water, at least 3 liters a day, consuming fiber-enriched fruits and vegetables, engaging in daily exercise for 30 minutes, and ensuring adequate sleep

There are cases of children developing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), a chronic inflammatory condition affecting the digestive tract. Once a person has IBD, it becomes a lifelong disease

■ Are piles, fistula and fissures more common in males or females?

Females have a higher incidence of suffering from these diseases. Out of 100 women, over 70 experience problems due to lifestyle and pregnancy. Many women develop piles after normal delivery, as the uterus puts pressure on the veins. Additionally, during pregnancy, the rise in the hormone progesterone relaxes the walls of the veins, causing them to swell. After delivery, many mothers are advised to avoid certain fruits and vegetables, which can also result in causing piles. For women facing obstructive defecation syndrome, Stapled Trans-Anal Rectal Resection (STARR) treatment is carried out.

■ Is there a need for any state wide awareness programmes to be carried out for colorectal issues?

There is a definite need for state governments to carry out awareness programs on colorectal issues. These initiatives should be spread to all districts and rural areas so that people are aware of these diseases and can take immediate measures and seek timely treatment. Late diagnosis of some colorectal conditions can even lead to death, with over 78% of colorectal cancers being diagnosed at a late stage. Hence, awareness and screening are of utmost importance.

PREVENTIVE measures

- Drink a lot of water and healthy fluids
- Be physically active
- Add a fibre rich diet to everyday meal
- Eat vegetables and fruits
- Drink healthy fruit juice
- Avoid aerated drinks and junk foods.
- Eat food in the right and moderate quantity.

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Citizens find a way to remove yellow spots

Blow the Whistle – A bold initiative against public urination

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While the world observes World Toilet Day, citizen groups in the city have taken into their own hands to eliminate yellow spots. Despite continued efforts by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to get rid of these eyesores, a persistent few continue to create them without remorse. World Toilet Day, observed since 2013 to promote hygiene, hasn't deterred the presence of these spots in Bengaluru.

Malleswaram Social volunteers have launched a unique initiative – Blow the Whistle – to deter people from converting open spaces into yellow spots. "We have launched this initiative in 2021 to stop people from urinating on the road, especially along the compound wall near 9th Cross and other locations. It has become a nuisance for us. There are occasions where some auto-rickshaw drivers quarrel with me for blowing the whistle," said Vijaya Shenoy of Malleswaram Social.

Vijaya said some people do not want to use public toilets that exist only a few hundred meters away. "There are four public toilets within a 200-meter radius in this area but some people continue creating yellow spots. There are occasions where I have to wait until the person who is creating this nuisance leaves the spot," said Shenoy.

The yellow spots are not only an eyesore for women but a health hazard for those residing near such spots. It is also a setback for Bengaluru to get a better place in the Swachcha Sarvekshan ranking list.

Wall art to discourage public urination; Below: poster of the campaign

BEAUTIFUL BHARAT
World Toilet Day - 19th November
Launching a campaign to address public urination
BLOW THE WHISTLE!
Keep a whistle handy. Blow it when you see someone urinating in public. Get others to do this too. No need to ignore, no need to argue either.
This simple strategy sends an immediate message:
public urination is not acceptable!
And will get them to locate the nearest toilet.
A group in Malleshwaram, Bengaluru has been doing this. We'd like their success to spread nationally. More whistles. More alerts. More consciousness.
CLEAN STREETS - HEALTHY CITIES - PROUD NATION
Blow the whistle. Spread the message. Make a difference!
Try it; tell us if it worked. More concerned citizens can impact cleaner public spaces.

"There is a penalty for urinating in public places. It is the responsibility of the BBMP Marshals and Health Inspectors to penalise people creating nuisances in public places – V Ramprasad, co founder, Friends of Lakes

Krishna Panyam, a member of Malleswaram Social, has said that the people, who urinate on the road and compound wall, have no excuses to convert open spaces into open urinals. "I found some yellow spots near the flyover at Yeshwantpur. We have to stop those people from using open spaces for urinating and make them use public toilets," said Panyam.

Expressing concern over the number of yellow spots in the city, Friends of Lakes co-founder V Ramprasad has said Bengaluru fails to get a suitable place in the Swachh Survekshan ranking list due to the existence of yellow spots. "There is a penalty for urinating in public places. It is the responsibility of the BBMP Marshals and Health Inspectors to penalise people creating nuisances in public places. I want the BBMP Marshals to take a pledge to prevent people from urinating in public places. The BBMP has to construct more urinals to avoid people urinating in public places," said Ramprasad.

According to Somasekhar Patil, a BBMP Marshal, around five hundred people are penalised for urinating at public places in the city. "We are authorised to collect Rs 100 to Rs 200 as a penalty from those who are creating nuisance (spitting and urinating) at public places," said the BBMP Marshal. Beautiful Bharat Co-founder Odette Katrak has said that World Toilet Day provides a chance to address the nuisance of public urination, and Beautiful Bharat has kickstarted a campaign that enables concerned citizens who feel helpless to influence this delicate issue.

"Many of us ground volunteers are constantly requesting people on streets not to litter or spit, but few wish to speak to a man with his pants down! Blowing a whistle is a good solution to influence this issue and sound the alert, without having to get into conversations. This was an innovative idea from Malleswaram Social, and we're hoping by publicising it, concerned citizens everywhere can play their part to blow the whistle, literally and figuratively," said Katrak.

She said that culturally many men have never seen anything wrong with public urination and just turn to the nearest wall. "This campaign aims to bring a behaviour change to what has been normalised, more so because passersby prefer not to get involved. There's another issue here - how come it's only males who reach this level of desperation? If women can exercise self-control, so can men!" she said.

She said that the message needed to be given is not just don't pee here, go somewhere else but clearly that peeing in public is not acceptable, learn to control or look for the nearest toilet. "There are far more toilets now than 5 years ago, but increasing the number and cleanliness of public toilets can also be an important angle to impact this problem. Security of all buildings can be asked to whistle for not just offences of urinating but spitting, and littering too. Time to reclaim the beauty of our public places!" she said.

Finally, help arrives for Hennur road

After Bangalore Mirror's report on the deplorable condition of Hennur Road, with the stretch uneven and filled with potholes, resulting in daily traffic congestion, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) stepped forward and fixed the road by addressing patches that were in a bad state.

On Thursday, the BBMP carried out the work, fixing the patches, and daily commuters, as well as residents, pointed out that it has significantly improved the smooth flow of traffic. Although other issues, such as a narrow railway bridge contributing to congestion, still persist, the residents feel that the fixed road has positively impacted vehicle movement, even during peak hours.

A resident, A Jayahthimala, said, "This will surely help for the time being, along with reducing the time taken to cross the underpass; it's going to reduce stress levels too. I'm glad that we could see some results almost instantly after the Bangalore Mirror article."

K Subramanian from Hennur Taskers added, "Many residents have expressed their sincere gratitude for the efforts of all concerned. There are numerous comments and likes on our Facebook page. They all want us to do more to fix the road in its entirety." — BMB

Bangalore Mirror
Potholes, bumps and jams: Hennur's traffic tale

BM story on November 13 about potholes and traffic on Hennur Road

"This will surely help for the time being, along with reducing the time taken to cross the underpass; it's going to reduce stress levels too
– A Jayahthimala, a resident

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

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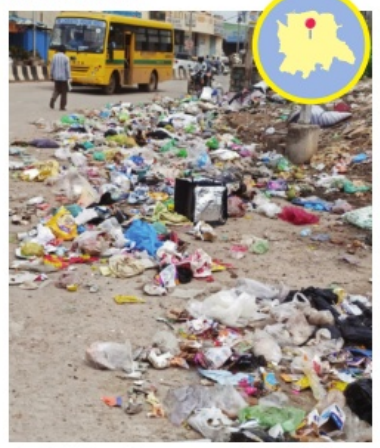
Trash troubles
Horamavu



Just 100 metres away from Vishnu Vaibhav Restaurant and Canara Bank on Horamavu Main Road, chronic garbage issues persist despite the presence of the nearby BBMP office.

Persistent leak
Hoodi

A sewage pipe has been damaged for 20 days, no action has been taken. Vehicle users and residents are having a tough time at Krishna Farm Road, Sadaramangala Village, Hoodi Ward, adjacent to Belathur Main Road.

Road despair
Challakere

Pictures sent by citizens show the poor conditions of roads on Challakere Main Road in Kalyan Nagar.

Shock and rage after woman, infant electrocuted

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timegroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The shocking deaths of a 23-year-old woman and her nine-month-old baby girl after the woman tripped on a dangling live wire that was left unattended on the footpath near Hope Farm has caused much furore in the city.

According to Kadugodi police, the deceased have been identified as Soundarya and Suviksha. They had succumbed to the burns they suffered by the time relief arrived.

BESCOM personnel concerned are being questioned by the police as they file a case of negligence against them.

The tragedy has brought up the subject of pedestrian safety once more and evoked ire from the public against BESCOM's irresponsibility.

People took to social media to express their disappointment.

"Two innocent lives lost due to sheer apathy and negligence. Where is the accountability? Our city is not safe to walk or even stand for pedestrians taking public transport. Making skywalks at random places doesn't help anyone except advertisers," said Shilpi Sahu, a citizen.

"Not a single person will be held accountable and have any consequence in their job. Let alone be punished by law. That is why our public services are so apathetic to citizen safety," said another citizen Harsha.

Netizens posted on social media sites about tragedy

Who is responsible for this tragedy and who will be held accountable? Citizens want to know

Bengaluru Central MP P C Mohan posted about the incident on X. "The electrocution.. is heartbreaking and highlights the urgency for BESCOM to adopt preventive measures. A heightened sense of responsibility from BESCOM is crucial in averting such incidents and ensuring a safer environment."

A citizens' forum, Whitefield Rising, said that they had just posted about the issue of OFC cables two days back before the tragic incident.

"How could a live wire be just hanging? Thousands of people walk on this footpath next to the bus stop. Metro is just a walk away. This is criminal negligence. A young lady, whose life has been brutally taken away. A rolling bag with her belongings at the side, standing mute witness to the tragedy," tweeted the forum.

Meanwhile Power Minister, KJ George, on Sunday announced Rs 5 lakh compensation for the bereaved family. "Our prayers are with the families that have lost their precious members," he said.

Ejipura Flyover pier pressure over 84 trees

Citizens want BBMP, tree committee to try ways to reduce number of trees to be felled for project

Nature seems to have reclaimed the Ejipura Flyover as work had come to a screeching halt due to contract issues (file photo)

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"We conducted a detailed assessment of the trees standing in the project area in 2022. We found that most of the trees do not obstruct the carriageway –Avanti Rao, resident of the area

As Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) prepares to resume work on the stalled 2.5-km-long Ejipura Flyover, 84 trees falling within the project area are expected to be removed. Of the 84 trees, 17 will be translocated to available spaces inside St Johns Medical College premises.

In 2021, the Tree Expert Committee had given permission to BBMP's South Zone for the felling of 67 trees and the relocation of 17 trees. However, as the contract then awarded for construction was later cancelled, BBMP did not fell or relocate the trees.

Back in 2017, BBMP had sought permission for the removal of trees standing in the median from Kendriya Sadana to Ejipura Junction for the erection of piers and permission was granted for the translocation of 39 trees.

Now, the BBMP Chief Engineer(Projects) has written to the BBMP Forest Department for renewal of the same permission and to complete the remaining 20 per cent work.

In continuation of the same project, the works related to the substructure (piers) of the Elevated Corridor from Kendriya Sadana to Ejipura Junction was 80% complete and the construction of the portal frame for the Up-ramp and Down-ramp of flyover towards the BWSSB junction i.e., St John's Medical College premises was under progress.

The initial memorandum issued had to be renewed to permit the auction of trees for timber/firewood. Accordingly, the Tree Officer (BBMP), ACF and RFO concerned visited the spot on November 2. After the field visit, it was found that 96 trees were falling within the area and an additional nine unnumbered Ashoka trees were on the roadside.

Every tree counts

Based on the field visit and observations, in an order issued on November 15, 2023, the Office of Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP, has approved the felling of 67 trees, translocation of 17 trees and retention of 12 trees. Out of the 67 trees expected to fall, there were 28 rain trees.

As per the order issued by the DCF, the translocation of trees should be done in vacant spaces within St John Medical College and Hospital. The translocated trees would have to be maintained and taken care of for three years.

For every tree felled, 10 trees must be planted. So, BBMP needs to plant 670 saplings as part of the compensatory work undertaken. These saplings also will have to be maintained and taken care of for three years.

Additionally, while carrying out the civil work for the flyover, the retained trees must not sustain any damage. A quarterly progress report will have to be submitted to the Tree officer regarding the translocated trees.

Unhappy murmurs

However, citizens are opposed to the felling of trees and want BBMP to consider more trees for translocation. "We conducted a detailed assessment of the trees standing within the project area in 2022. We found that most of the trees do not obstruct the carriageway. The flyover can be constructed without cutting the trees," said Avanti Rao, a resident of the area. Rao said that a few trees on the median will have to be felled but ones on the side do not need to be felled. "We have been demanding a detailed assessment by TEC and that explanations be provided about the reason for the felling of trees. Efforts must be taken to consider more trees for translocation and if construction work can be taken up with pruning of trees. In an ideal example, metro work on Nanda Theatre road was undertaken by pruning of trees," said Rao.

Spot a big cat? Helpline on the way

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

If you encounter a leopard in the city, worry not, you may soon be able to dial for help. The forest department is in the process of launching a dedicated helpline number for leopard rescues.

A senior forest department official said, "The dedicated leopard task force will have 35 members, including veterinarians, equipped with all necessary tools, such as snares and other protective gear. The team will undergo extensive training, and a dedicated helpline will be established. If anyone calls, this team will promptly come to the rescue of the leopard."

According to the official, a few staff members will oversee the operations. "We will hire around 35 staffers on an outsourced basis. They will be provided with modern equipment and undergo special training at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, or any other suitable training facility."

After a leopard startled residents of Kudlu area recently and a rescue operation that eventually led to the killing of the big cat, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre announced the formation of a task force to address future human-leopard conflict cases. The task force will be led by the Deputy Conservator of Forest.

BangaloreMirror
Task force to keep eye on big cats in city
Team will be well-equipped to handle cases of human-animal conflict in B'luru
BM had reported on November 7 about constitution of a task force

Wildlife scientist Sanjay Gubbi had previously urged the State Government to incorporate a curriculum of at least one week of training on human-wildlife conflict in the Forest Watcher, Forest Guard, Deputy Range Forest Officer, and Range Forest Officer training schools. He also insisted that these courses should be mandatory for all Forest Department personnel.

Knock, knock... Have a property tax receipt?

For digitisation, BBMP will go door to door to check tax receipts, BESCOM bills

BBMP has 19 lakh properties under its ambit, but it gets tax from just around 16.5 lakh properties

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

BBMP officials may soon be knocking on your door to check property tax receipts and BESCOM bills. Bengalureans have received messages stating, "BBMP is creating a digital property record, and BBMP staff will visit your area in the next few days. Please keep a copy of your property tax receipt and BESCOM bill ready to hand over to them. This is very necessary to correctly digitise your property."

BBMP officials state that they are attempting to identify all properties within their jurisdiction that have been out of the tax net so far. They aim to identify properties without khata or unpaid property taxes, deeming them as B khata and subsequently collecting property tax. A BBMP official said that they have taken up the task of digitising the properties in the city and to begin with the pilot project has been taken up at four wards; CV Raman Nagar, Horamavu, Kodigenahalli and Arakere. This project is likely to be completed in three months.

> **"Please keep a copy of your property tax receipt and BESCOM bill to hand over to them. This is necessary to correctly digitise your property**
>
> –BBMP's message

Collection target

BBMP is exploring various avenues to boost its property tax revenue, targeting a collection of Rs 4,690 crore in the current fiscal year (2023-24), with Rs 3,000 crore collected thus far. With 19 lakh properties under its ambit, BBMP annually collects property tax from only 16 to 16.5 lakh properties. To pinpoint habitual defaulters, the civic agency has assigned officials across its 64 subdivisions spanning 225 wards to meet tax targets. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath stated that measures are being implemented to increase tax revenue. He said, "We have instructed officials to identify properties yet to pay taxes. According to our estimate, around 7 to 8 lakh properties lack khatas. We will classify these properties as B khata and collect tax."

SAS not good

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had hinted at modifying the existing Self Assesment Scheme (SAS).He had said he was not satisfied with the SAS. "We had brought this scheme with a lot of hope and trust from the residents. We have seen a lot of trials. We have been able to collect only Rs 3,000 crore plus in a financial year which is not at all enough. For a mega city like Bengaluru, Rs 3,000 crore is not enough at all," he had said.

This year, the BBMP has set a target to collect 50% more tax than the previous year.

A BBMP official said, "Our main focus is to boost the civic agency's revenue and generate more income, so we have set new targets for each zone. These targets are 50% higher than last year's, and all eight zones have received increased targets. While we may even surpass the 50% goal, our immediate aim is to achieve at least that. Failure to meet the targets could lead to consequences such as transfers to other zones or being assigned non-executive positions. During the past years, BBMP's tax collection was as follows: Rs 2,529 crore in 2018-19, Rs 2,659 crore in 2019-20, Rs 2,860 crore in 2020-21, and Rs 3,088 crore in 2021-22. For 2022-23, the estimated tax revenue was Rs 4,189 crore, but the actual collection was Rs 3,332.72 crore."

Prostitution ring busted at hotel

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) conducted a raid at a well-known luxury hotel in the city and busted a prostitution ring. Consequently, a young woman was effectively rescued from the grasp of this illegal enterprise. She was taken by the CCB to the Cubbon Park police station, where she is being questioned by the authorities at the moment.

Unfortunately, those who were engaged in the crime, fled the scene. The CCB was provided with reliable information about the trafficking of foreign young women who were then forced into prostitution. **–BMB**

We will take Yatnal into confidence, says Vijayendra

Amid resentment among a section of leaders, over his appointment as Karnataka BJP president, BY Vijayendra on Sunday said, everything will be fine, and every one including senior party MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who is upset, will be taken into confidence. He said, everyone in the party has the freedom to express their opinion and that the BJP's central leadership and seniors in the state unit will discuss and find a solution to all issues internally.

"You are interpreting senior leader Yatnal's statements wrongly. He has freedom to express his opinion. This is BJP, a national party. Every leader has his own opinion and based on everyone's opinion our central leadership will decide," Vijayendra said in response to a question on disgruntlement within the party, citing Yatnal's public statements. He told reporters, "I'm not denying that Yatnal might have made certain statements out of pain. He might have shared certain issues, but our central leadership and seniors in the state will discuss and will try to find an answer. We will take him into confidence." To a question about senior MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi's alleged disgruntlement, he said, "All is fine, everything will be fine, nothing to worry."

> **New K'taka unit BJP chief says there's nothing to worry as central leadership, senior leaders will find solutions to all issues internally**

Yatnal made his displeasure over the elevation of Yediyurappa's son Vijayendra as state president, known, as he struck a discordant note saying that the party workers and the Hindu activists would not accept it if BJP becomes a party of one family. **–PTI**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Focal point

For some reason, Karnataka remains a focal point of discussion in the neighbouring Telangana polls. Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao claimed that the Congress government in Karnataka had failed to fully implement five guarantee schemes. He alleged that the Congress had promised five hours of power but couldn't deliver even three hours, leaving many struggling to charge their mobile phones. Congress leaders opposed these claims, dismissing them as falsehoods.

Cyber victim

The latest victim of fake social media accounts is Rajajinagar MLA and former minister S Suresh Kumar. Kumar revealed that he received messages from friends informing him that a hacker, posing as him, was approaching his social media contacts and demanding money. Kumar promptly reported the incident to the police and issued an alert, cautioning people not to fall victim to such tactics.

Glued to cricket

As the country was glued to TV sets to watch the finals of World Cup, the matches were beamed even in the wedding halls. Many choultries broadcast the match live with a TV panel inside. Some weddings even reported lower attendance. A couple who tied the knot in Tumakuru decided to do something special to attract guests. The TV typically used to broadcast wedding proceedings was instead connected to provide live TV coverage of the cricket match, ensuring that wedding guests didn't miss the game.

Meanwhile, reports surfaced of a few officials checking their mobile phones regularly during meetings to get live updates on the match.

Unconventional protest

In the midst of a severe power crisis, residents are resorting to unconventional methods to draw attention to their plight and compel officials to address their power needs. In a unique protest in Kalaburagi, some villagers took to rolling on the roads. Their unconventional demonstration aimed to convey the urgency of their situation.

Time management

Scheduling appointments with VVIPs can be a tricky business. A recent incident at DK Shivakumar's residence highlighted the importance of proper communication. A group seeking his appointment for an event claimed they had already organised everything and planned to mobilise 5,000 people. However, Shivakumar expressed his displeasure, asking how organisers could plan an event without his consent. He stressed that scheduling should align with his availability, and it was inappropriate for organisers to assume his participation without consultation.

–Sridhar Vivan

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SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

Australia win sixth World Cup title after Head hundred sinks India

Australia won a record-extending sixth 50-overs World Cup title after opener Travis Head smashed a magnificent century to fashion their six-wicket victory in Sunday's final against the tournament's in-form team India.

Put into bat, India rode battling half-centuries by KL Rahul and Virat Kohli to post a below-par 240 all out in exactly 50 overs at a packed Narendra Modi Stadium.

Australia suffered a top order wobble of their own but Head's 137 off 120 balls saw them romp home with seven overs to spare in a match that never reached great heights.

Around 93,000 predominantly Indian fans sat mostly in deathly silence as the home team, who had won 10 matches in a row to make the final, succumbed to their first loss of the tournament in the all-important summit clash.

Earlier, Pat Cummins's decision to field, primarily to avoid operating with a dewy ball in the night, bemused many but Australian bowlers, aided by some superb fielding, stifled their opposition.

India captain Rohit Sharma had been playing tone-setting knocks in their batting template in the tournament and it was no different in the final despite the early loss of Shubman Gill.

Rohit smashed three sixes in his entertaining 47 but fell just before the end of powerplay.

The opener stepped out against Glenn Maxwell but miscued his shot on the offside. Head ran backwards from cover to take a tumbling catch to get rid of the India captain.

Australia's Travis Head celebrates his century. India's players wait for the Decision Review System (DRS) result against the wicket of Australia's Marnus Labuschagne during the World Cup finals on Sunday.

Kohli (54) hit Mitchell Starc (3-55) for three boundaries in a row but India slumped to 81-3 in the 11th over when Cummins dismissed Shreyas Iyer caught behind.

Kohli and Rahul (66) then combined in a dour rebuilding job even if it meant going 16.1 overs without a boundary.

Kohli brought up his ninth 50-plus knock in 11 innings but soon departed after chopping a Cummins delivery on to his stumps.

Rahul hit just one four in his half-century illustrating how difficult the pitch was for shot-makers like him.

Australia wicketkeeper Josh Inglis took five catches, which is a record in a World Cup final.

Australia, when they came out to bat, slumped to 47-3 seven overs into what had looked like a straight-forward chase for them.

Head combined with Marnus Labuschagne, who made 58 not out, in a 192-run stand to kill off the contest. **Reuters**

CITY TURNS BLUE

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Rahul breaks Dravid's record

Most dismissals as Indian wicketkeeper in single World Cup

India wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul on Sunday went past the record of former batter Rahul Dravid's record for most dismissals as an Indian wicketkeeper in a single ODI World Cup edition.

Rahul now holds the record for the most dismissals in a World Cup edition for Team India as a wicketkeeper.

Rahul bagged his 17th dismissal of the ongoing 2023 World Cup. Rahul achieved this landmark by taking the catch of Mitchell Marsh in Jasprit Bumrah's over during the blockbuster final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

In the ongoing World Cup, the 31-year-old has grabbed 16 catches and one stumping, surpassing current India head coach Rahul Dravid's 15 catches and one stumping during the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

In Sunday's blockbuster final against Australia, Rahul played a vigilant knock of 66 runs, helping India restructure from a precarious 81 for three to post a total of 240.

Virat Kohli and KL Rahul's gritty half-centuries powered India to 240 against Australia in the ICC World Cup 2023 final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

Australia put on a stunning display of tight and belligerent bowling to bundle out India for 240 after pacers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins broke the back of the hosts' batting line-ups early in the innings.

Australia now needs 241 to clinch their sixth World Cup title, while India is chasing their third crown after 1983 and 2011 victories. **ANI**

Of love and sacrifice

The sequel to Sapta Sagaradaache Ello Side A that was released in August, has turned out to be more gripping than the first part. Kudos to director Hemanth Rao for his efforts with the sequel that highlights the importance of sacrifice and love. The film shows how one has to sacrifice a lot for the welfare of their dear ones.

The movie begins with Prakash (Gopal Deshpande) helping Manu (Rakshit Shetty) to find a shelter after both are released from the prison. Prakash, who works as a cab driver, encourages Manu to spend time with a call girl to come out of depression and loneliness. Manu engages Surabhi (Chaitra Achar), a sex worker. The agreement was to spend a few hours but Manu wants Surabhi to become his life partner.

Meanwhile, Manu comes to know that his lover Priya is also residing in the same city along with her family. Manu also meets Priya's husband Deepak and offers him financial help to open a hotel. While Manu is mulling to lead a life with Surabhi, his rival (Ramesh Indira) creates problems for him. What happens to Manu and Surbahi is what Sapta Sagaradaache Ello is all about.

Rakshith Shetty, as usual, is at his best. Among the performances of the two leading ladies - Rukmini Vasanth and Chaitra Achar - it is difficult to pick one over the other. While Rukmini Vasanth, as a dejected lover and responsible wife and a concerned mother, has acted well, Chaitra Achar, as a bold sex worker and a lover who craves to lead a decent life, too has done a good job . Gopal

Rakshit Shetty in Kannada movie Sapta Sagaradaache Ello Side B

Sapta Sagaradaache Ello Side B (Kannada)

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Hemanth Rao
- **ACTORS** Rakshit Shetty, Rukmini Vasanth, Chaitra Achar, Ramesh Indira, Achyuth Kumar, and Gopal Deshpande.
- **Duration** 147 minutes
- **Certification** US

Deshpande, as a friend, is convincing. His dialogue delivery and gestures are good. He is known for playing cops, but in this film he is a cab driver. Ramesh Indira, as a vicious villain, and Achyuth Rao, as a manipulator, are convincing. Music and cinematography are good. Art work adds value to the movie. Rakshith Shetty's fans may not like the climax.

If you have already watched Side A, then surely you may want to catch up.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ruchira D/O R.RAGHAVENDRAN R/O B201 Purva Panorama Apartments, Bannerghatta Main Road, Kalena Agrahara, Bangalore-560076. I have changed my name to Ruchira Vailaya for future purposes.

I Peddamalli Naresh Kumar S/O, Pedamalli Jayarami Reddy R/o Aremvari Palli, Agraharam, Piler, Annamayya Dist, Andhra Pradesh-517214 have changed my name to Pedamalli Naresh Kumar Reddy .

I Savita Bhatt W/O, Ashish Thapliyal R/o 18113, Prestige Ferns Residency, Harlur Main Rd. Harlur, Bangalore, Karnataka -560068 have changed my name to Savita Thapliyal .

I Qudsiya Khatoon W/O, Saifulla Khan R/o #18 1st Cross 3rd Main Kaveri Nager Banglore North Banglore 560032 have changed my name to Qudsiya Khatoon.

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Minimum wage: No gig deal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

none of the platforms have provided enough evidence to prove that the worker is able to make the minimum wage after cancelling out work-related costs.

Suman Das, a member of All India IT & ITeS Employees' Union (AIITEU), has consistently stressed that gig workers have to work a minimum of 12 hours to ensure they earn the minimum wage.

"Unlike first world countries where students and those with low-income jobs take up gig work as a second source of income, in India, for a majority of workers, it is the only source of employment," he said, underlining the need for ensuring minimum wage.

Das further added that there is an urgent need for the government to create an employer-employee relationship between the e-commerce platform and the gig worker, so that they are protected under existing labour laws.

This year's theme for the study was worker alienation. Five fair-work principles – fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management and fair representation were examined by research, alongside worker interviews conducted in Bengaluru, Delhi, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, as well as from evidence provided by the 12 e-commerce platforms.

"Unlike first world countries where students and those with low-income jobs take up gig work as a second source of income, in India, for a majority of workers, it is the only source of employment

"Consumers can use these scores to make informed decisions about which platforms to use," the researchers said in a statement. Two e-commerce platforms, Ola and Porter, did not receive any points under either of the five principles that were examined by the study.

Along with this, none of the platforms received a point for fair representation.

"It is disconcerting that despite the rise in platform worker collectivisation across the country over the past four years, there was insufficient evidence from any platform that showed a willingness to recognise a collective body of workers," the study noted.

Rikta Krishnaswamy, coordinator at All India Gig Workers Union (AIGWU) had at a previous instance told Bangalore Mirror that aggregator companies tend to absolve themselves of any responsibility when an issue is raised by workers and unions associated with them.

She had recalled the protests which broke out in October 2021 by women working as beauticians and spa attendants under a popular aggregator of services. While the aggregator company had promised changes, they remained on paper.

Why prepaid auto rickshaw counters are a must at bus station

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the amount to ferry the passengers to their destinations. Oftentimes the amount depends on the whims and fancies of the respective auto rickshaw drivers.

"It is very difficult to find an honest auto rickshaw driver who agrees to collect the fare as per the meter. I have to wait for more than 30 minutes for a BMTC bus to reach home. So, I have to be ready to spend more money to hire an auto rickshaw," said Somanath, a passenger who came to Bengaluru from Andhra Pradesh.

Many passengers arriving at Kempegowda bus station have expressed 'disappointment' and 'disgust' at what they termed 'greedy' and 'uncivilised' behaviour of auto rickshaw drivers who have no remorse in exploiting the passengers.

"I am from Someshwara Nagar. I have to travel to neighbouring states on a frequent basis. It is very disturbing to come across auto rickshaw drivers who demand more money from passengers," said Shanmugam K.

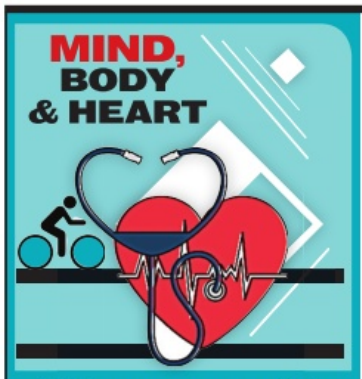
Many important locations such as hospitals, metro stations and bus stations do not have prepaid auto counters, nor do shopping malls. Most of the prepaid auto counters opened a few years ago. Bangalore Mirror published a story – Auto-crazy – on November 7, 2022, narrating how defunct prepaid auto counters are inconveniencing ordinary citizens at hospitals, railway stations and malls.

"It is very difficult to hire an auto rickshaw here. Auto rickshaw drivers themselves fix the fare to reach the destination. They refuse to use the fare meter. It would be a great help if traffic police open a prepaid auto counter here," said a woman pleading anonymity.

A retired police inspector (traffic) said in a social media post how he was disappointed with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities for removing a prepaid auto counter opened a few years ago below the flyover near Anand Rao Circle on the pretext of beautifying the junction.

Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner of police (traffic - west) said preparations are being made to open a prepaid auto counter at the Kempegowda bus station for the benefit of passengers.

"We have identified the location for opening a prepaid auto counter. We have sent the proposal to the Road Transport Office to fix the tariff for auto rickshaws and cabs. We open it as soon as we receive the response from the RTO. I think it will become a reality in a month," said the DCP, adding that there is a proposal to open prepaid auto counters at Shanthi Nagar and Lulu Mall for the benefit of the public.



All you need to know about...

Diabetes in kids

More cases
Medical experts at the King George's Medical University (KGMU) have said that more and more children are getting prone to type 2 Diabetes.

Rising worry
Kauser Usman, senior faculty member, department of medicine, KGMU, said, "The youngest child I have diagnosed and treated for diabetes was a Class 7 student, who had no family history of diabetes. There has been a rise in the number of children coming to OPD being diagnosed for diabetes, without any family history."

Lifestyle issue
Doctors said changing habits/lifestyle is to be blamed more than genetics.
"Children are now having mainly food outside the house and even avoid bringing tiffin to school. Busy parents also give money rather than tiffin. Besides, they are under tremendous pressure to perform. The aim is to decide on a profession such as medicine or engineering right from Class 4 or 5. During our time, all this pressure came only after Class 10," said NS Verma, HoD, physiology, KGMU.

Drawback
Doctors said that children getting diabetes is a major drawback for society.
"First, if there were no other diabetes patients, the family history for diabetes starts, secondly and most importantly, the productive age between 17 years and 40 years remains compromised due to the disease," said Usman. Prof Verma suggested exercising daily for at least 40 minutes, maintaining a diet chart and eating what suits your body best.

–IANS

THE SUPERBUGS

Antimicrobial resistance leads to 5 million deaths a year. Solutions must include the poor

Microbes such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi form part of our everyday lives – they live in us, on us and around us.

We need them for healthy digestion, immune function, and the synthesis of essential nutrients, and we depend on them for farming and industrial processes.

But microbes also cause disease in people, animals and plants. That is why science has developed an arsenal of antimicrobials that kill them or slow their spread.

Over time, microbes develop resistance to antimicrobials, and some eventually evolve into so-called "superbugs" that no longer respond to the drugs. So we see more and more untreatable infections appearing in hospitals and communities.

This phenomenon, known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), means that common illnesses and diseases may become life-threatening again.

Recent figures show that antimicrobial resistance has been linked to close to 5 million deaths annually – more than the total combined death toll of HIV/AIDS and malaria.

It is further estimated that deaths related to drug-resistance could increase to 10 million per year by 2050, overtaking cancer as a leading cause of death worldwide.

World AMR Awareness Week aims to improve awareness and understanding of this silent killer.

Remembering the poor

We need urgent global action to counter antimicrobial resistance. However, current efforts that focus on solutions developed in high-income settings may not be suited to the societal and economic challenges in low- and middle-income countries.

We are members of a multidisciplinary Global Convening Programme set up by The British Academy to look into solutions to this problem that are fair and inclusive. Our collective expertise includes epidemiology, ethics and human rights.

If we want people to become less dependent on antibiotics, we must address the factors that create dependency on antibiotics in the first place.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global issue, but there are some regional differences.

Most human deaths from antimicrobial resistance occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Drug resistance is a growing concern in malaria and tuberculosis in these regions.

Low-income environments often go hand in hand with the use of cheap antimicrobials that may be of poor quality or even falsified. These create the ideal conditions for resistance to emerge.

Many are sold over the counter for self-diagnosed ailments.

Antibiotics, animals and pandemic risk

Antibiotics are among the most widely used antimicrobials. Between 2000 and 2015 the use of antibiotics increased by 65% worldwide.

Globally, however, more antibiotics are used in animals and agriculture than for human health. Of all antimicrobials, 73% are used in animals raised for food.

In September 2016, the United Nations adopted a unanimous resolution recognising the inappropriate use of antimicrobials in animals as a leading cause of rising antimicrobial resistance.

Farmers rely on antibiotics to prevent disease outbreaks and boost production, especially where animals are kept in unhygienic and overcrowded conditions, and where farmers don't have access to veterinary care. There antibiotics serve as "quick fixes".

In one study in rural Uganda a woman told researchers she was using left-over antibiotics to treat family members and her chickens. This repurposing of antibiotics is seen as a way to survive and make a living.

Experts warn that antimicrobial resistance in farm animals, if unchecked, could lead to the next pandemic.

> "Current focus on solutions developed in high-income settings may not be suited to economic challenges in low or middle-income countries

Everybody is exposed, everywhere

Environmental pollution in the form of antimicrobial residues spreads to soils, rivers, streams and oceans, as well as food and drinking water, and contributes to resistance. Everyone is exposed to antimicrobials, especially antibiotics, even if they don't take these medicines themselves.

This kind of pollution is aggravated when antimicrobials are used and disposed of negligently.

The global response needs to be fair to all

We are calling for a new approach to antimicrobial resistance that prioritises equity and sustainability.

Policy options must be carefully considered with all those involved and by embedding public and community voices without having pre-determined solutions in mind.

"Simple" solutions may disadvantage communities that shoulder the heaviest burden of infections and poor healthcare. For example, banning the over-the-counter sale of antibiotics may help to curb excessive use, but it could also deny life-saving treatment for people who have no other options. Similarly, without antibiotics, small-scale pig and poultry farmers may no longer be able to make a living.

The solution we are working towards is fair and inclusive. It respects people and their traditions while also benefiting human health, animal welfare and the natural environment.

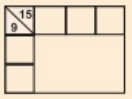
(By Marina Joubert, Stellenbosch University; Phaik Yeong Cheah, University of Oxford and Sonia Lewycka, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, The Conversation)

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

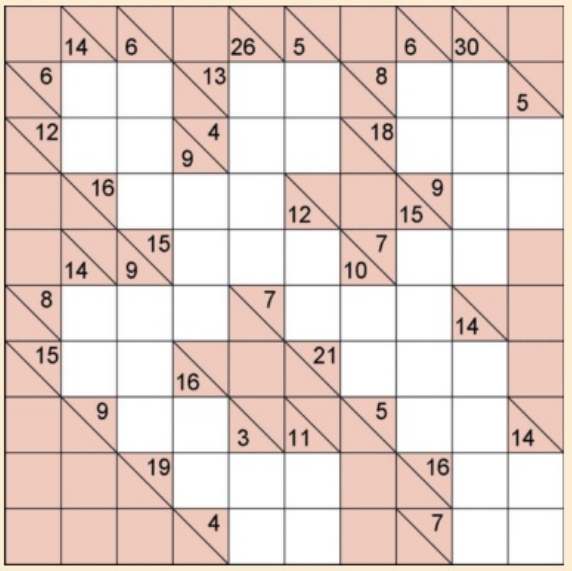
What is the total (hours and minutes) of these four intervals of time? 5 rotations of the second hand; 2/12 rotation of the hour hand; 3/6 rotation of the minute hand; 3/4 rotation of the minute hand

Kakuro

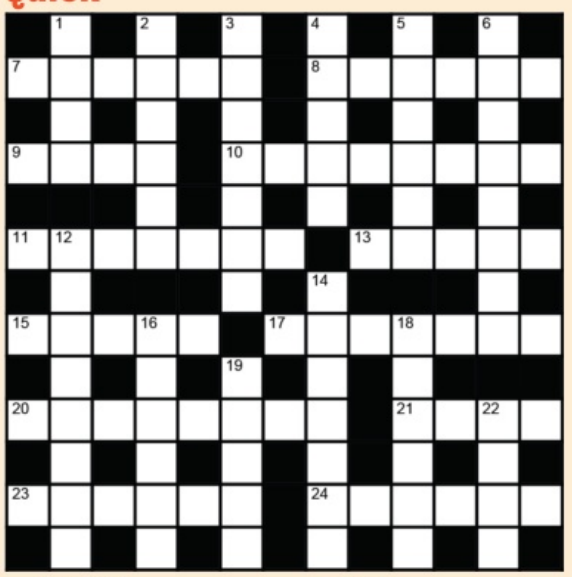
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Set alight (6)
8 Emergency (6)
9 Hollywood's Brad ___ (4)
10 Goes over one's tracks (8)
11 Appetizer (7)
13 Bookkeeping entry (5)
15 Ill-tempered persons (5)
17 Investigated or verified (7)
20 Repudiate; disown (8)
21 Earring site (4)
23 Insurgents (6)
24 Avaricious (6)

DOWN

1 Hindu god of fire (4)
2 Disorderly lout (6)
3 Disparages, belittles or condemns (7)
4 Very severe (5)
5 Optical illusion (6)
6 Birth to death (4,4)
12 White ants (8)
14 Karnataka district known for its trekking trails (7)
16 Pail (6)
18 Young ones of cows (6)
19 Bring up (5)
22 ___ one's time : await best opportunity? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS U

WVJ SY YSV VUVM KYEV JY TYD IPJGYDJ WVLUPSX NVJJVM LSC GLRRPVM.

Linemaro

Excuse me, I think you have something in your eye. Oh wait, it's just a sparkle

Mindchow

Acquaintance: a person whom we know well enough to borrow from, but not well enough to lend to

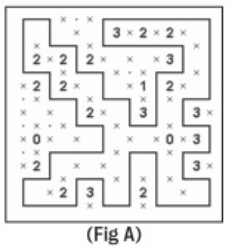
Joke of the day

If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

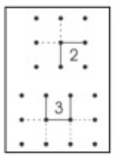
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

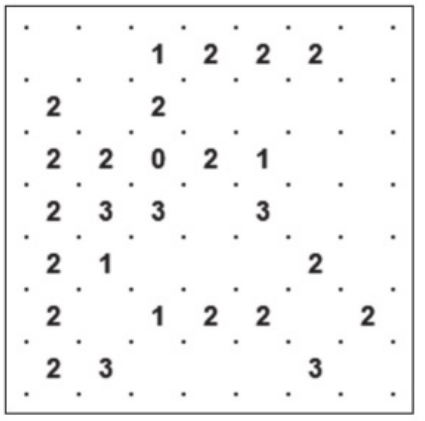


(Fig B) Not Allowed

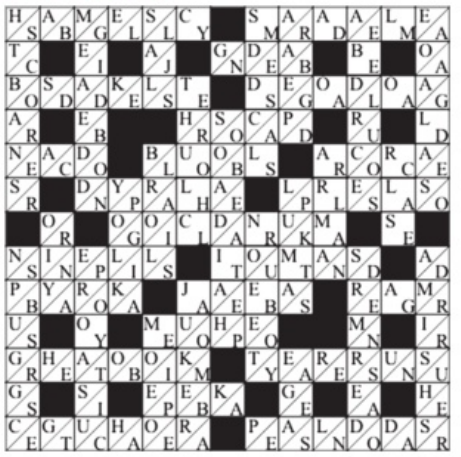
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



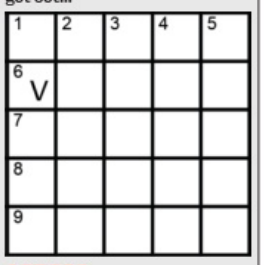
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

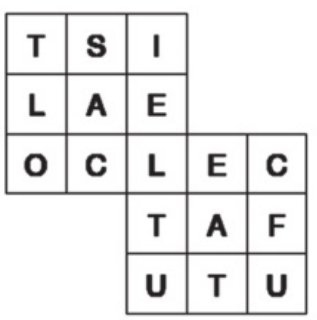
1 Beard; 6 Vogue; 7 A Argo; 8 Mesne; 9 Torts

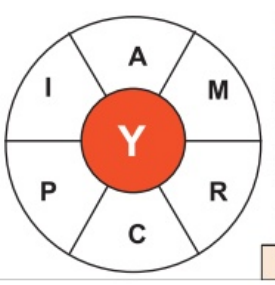
DOWN

1 At vas; 2 Err go; 3 U Doom; 4 Greet; 5 Banes

Mensapuzzle

Each square contains the letters of a nine-letter word. Find the two words that are similar in meaning.





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15
1 3 8 9

Medium = 7
2 7 7 8

Hard = 2
1 5 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

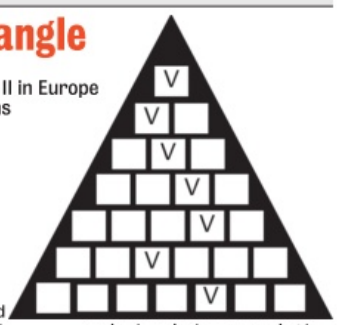
Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Leg of chair is not showing. 3. Book is taller. 4. Tie is longer. 5. Curtain is shorter. 6. Back of chair is taller

Riddler

Which three letter word completes the following longer words: r—nue, el—ns, for—r, — nts?

Alpha triangle

1 Victory sign
2 _ Day, ending WW II in Europe
3 Hail to the Romans
4 Possess
5 Use a razor
6 Talks foolishly
7 Piers



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

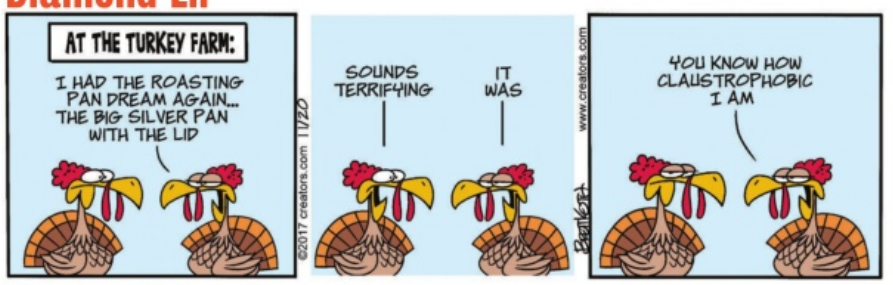
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

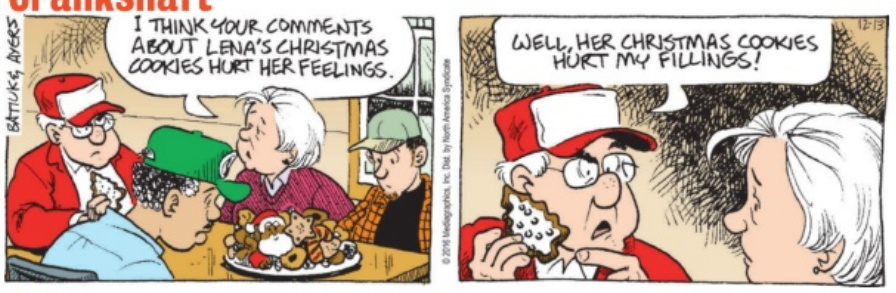
Diamond Lil


AT THE TURKEY FARM:
I HAD THE ROASTING PAN DREAM AGAIN... THE BIG SILVER PAN WITH THE LID
SOUNDS TERRIFYING
IT WAS
YOU KNOW HOW CLAUSTROPHOBIC I AM
©2017 creators.com 11/20
www.creators.com
Bankert

Hart of the city

OK, DEAN, SO YOU DIDN'T GET A PART IN THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY! BIG FAT DEAL!
MAYBE YOU CAN JOIN THE STAGE CREW! YOU'RE MORE OF A TECHNICAL GUY ANYWAY!
RIGHT. STAGE CREW. HOME OF THE "ALSO-RANS".
HEY! STAGE CREW GETS TO WEAR ALL BLACK! THAT'S COOL, RIGHT?
12-7
© 2009 Mark Tatulli/Dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gkcomics.com

Crankshaft


I THINK YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT LENA'S CHRISTMAS COOKIES HURT HER FEELINGS.
WELL, HER CHRISTMAS COOKIES HURT MY FILLINGS!
BATTUKS, AYERS
12-13
© 2016 Hedgegraphics, Inc. Dist. by North America Syndicate

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may be happy today because of the blessings of a good planetary composition. You may have some kind of energy that may create rivalry with those around you. You may spend your time in intellectual pursuits.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may be dull at the start of the day. After late evening, you can control the negativity. New people may connect with you before work. With their help, you can try to modify your business plans. It is advisable to read the documents carefully before placing your signature.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, with the help of blessings, you will gain control over your doubts. Health of the children is good now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will turn out to be a success in a project. Expect to receive some benefits with salary. Those working related to milk, water projects, grains, art and culture will have a favourable day.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You may be interested in art, movies, and fashion that can enhance your creativity. You may spend money to buy some artefacts and household items that will improve your social status. You may become very polite with others. You can also plan to visit some of the places your family or friends like.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your tendency to spend more today may affect your savings. Be careful before you reveal your innermost self at work and domestic front. You should avoid giving any money to people. Postpone important decisions on real estate and other property issues. You should try to avoid the tendency to wrangle yourself from your responsibilities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may be happy today, and inner vitality will boost your self-confidence. You may feel relaxed after sound sleep. Avoid carelessness in making decisions based on finance, industry and research. You may experience some romantic moments with your spouse. Sometimes, you may face problems of self-esteem and you need to be patient to prevent happy moments from being converted into bad ones.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you can implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. You may use your wisdom to make a profit. You may also find harmony in your home life and a better understanding will develop between you and your spouse. Those working with metal and booking agents will have a good day at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may be interested in your job today. To avoid your heart and brain interfering with each other while making important decisions, it is advisable to follow your intuition before making decisions related to business, work and investments. There may be a lot of workload, but the blessings of elders may help you to deal with this confusing situation.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Since this morning, you may have a little peace of mind that you are not in a hurry today, which will reflect in your work pattern. Your destiny may help you complete your deferred plans and achieve delayed goals. You may show patience in your domestic life to maintain harmony. You may have skin and stomach-related problems.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you can fall victim to negative thoughts. You may feel lethargic. Impatience and arrogance can push you back from making difficult decisions. You may need the blessings of your elders, which will help you grow in your work. Avoid investing in dead assets. Love birds should avoid discussing bad moments of the past.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day for your work so you can perform better. Your employer may give you some new responsibilities which may include promotions. Disputes with partners can be resolved. You may lend to build your assets. Your children's health may be better now. You may make some investments for the child's future.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love is in the air in terms of your personal life. Singles can find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and co-workers may support you. Investing in gems and jewellery can bring positive returns in the future. Take some care in matters of elders' health.

KIDZONE

Sanjana, 8 Years, Sri Vidya Mandir

Aditya Sri Nagesh, 14 Years, JSS Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M The second hand takes 1 minute for each rotation, so 5 rotations would take 5 minutes. The hour hand takes 24 hours for each rotation, so 2/12 or 1/6 of the rotation would take 2 hours. The minute hand takes 60 minutes for each rotation, so 3/6 or 1/2 of the rotation would take 30 minutes. The minute hand takes 60 minutes for each rotation, so 3/4 of the rotation would take 45 minutes. Total = 5 minutes + 2 hours + 30 minutes + 45 minutes = 3 hours 20 minutes

BULL'S EYE airy, army, piracy, pray, PRIMACY, racy

FAST FIVE

A	R	D	E	B
V	O	U	G	E
A	G	O	R	A
S	E	M	E	N
T	R	O	T	S

STRIKE OUT

E	T	C	H	E	R	P	A	N	D	A	S			
G	I	P	E	A	G	E	E							
R	E	T	O	O	K	T	A	R	S	U	S			
P	A	R	K	J	A	B	S	E	A	R				
U	O	M	O	H	O	N	I							
S	N	E	L	L	I	O	T	A	S	A				
R	O	I	L	D	R	U	M	E						
S	N	Y	A	L	A	P	L	E	A	S				
N	C	O	B	O	B	S	A	C	R	E				
O	D	D	E	S	T	S	E	A	D	O	G			
R	E	R	O	A	D	R	U	L						
S	A	G	E	L	Y	M	A	D	A	M	E			
C	I	A	N	E	B	B	A							

QUICK

S	T	E	A	S	E									
R	E	B	E	L	S	G	R	E	E	D	Y			
T	K	I	O	V	I									
D	I	S	C	L	A	I	M	L	O	B	E			
M	U	R	I	A										
C	R	A	B	S	C	H	E	C	K	E	D			
E	S	M												
S	T	A	R	T	E	R	D	E	B	I	T			
P	I	T	T	R	E	T	R	A	C	E	S			
I	G	N	I	T	E	C	R	I	S	I	S			
N	O	C	U	R	F									
A	R	D	A	M	L									

MENSA PUZZLE
OSCILLATE, FLUCTUATE.

RIDDLER
EVE (R-eve-nue, el-EVE-ns, for-EVE-r, EVE-nts)

QUOTE UNCODE
Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.

SUDOKU

5	1	8	3	2	4	6	9	7
3	6	7	5	1	9	2	8	4
9	2	4	7	6	8	1	5	3
4	3	1	8	5	6	9	7	2
8	7	5	4	9	2	3	1	6
6	9	2	1	7	3	8	4	5
2	8	6	9	4	7	5	3	1
1	4	9	2	3	5	7	6	8
7	5	3	6	8	1	4	2	9

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 9 + 1 − 3 = 15
Medium
7 + 2 − 8 x 7 = 7
Hard
5 + 4 − 7 x 1 = 2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
V, Ve, Ave, Have, Haver, Shave, Whatever.

LOOP

KAKURO

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**Not without my daughter—** Sushmita Sen recently recalled the time when she left a film with Akshay Kumar for her daughter Renee. In an interview with Barkha Dutt, Sushmita shared that she left the film midway to attend to Renee, who was not well

Home is where the luxury is

5 celebrities with wildest in-house amenities

Celebrities often take luxury to a whole new level, especially when it comes to their homes. From state-of-the-art entertainment spaces to wellness retreats within their own walls, these stars spare no expense in creating havens that reflect their personalities and lifestyles. Here's a glimpse into the wildest in-house amenities of some of the most iconic celebrities.

—ETimes

Shah Rukh Khan

Shah Rukh Khan's home theater in his luxurious Mumbai mansion, Mannat, is a cozy space with 42 comfy burgundy leather recliners and mahogany velvet walls. The walls are adorned with vintage posters of classic Bollywood films like Sholay, Mughal-E-Azam, and Ram Aur Shyam. Adding to the charm is a framed walking stick once owned by Charlie Chaplin, part of Shah Rukh Khan's impressive collection of memorabilia.

Priyanka Chopra-Jonas

Priyanka Chopra lives with her husband, Nick Jonas in thier $20 million mansion in Los Angeles, California. Her lavish home is equipped with a two-lane bowling alley, providing a fun option for at-home entertainment following a refreshing swim in their infinity pool that offers stunning views of the Hollywood hills.

Alicia Keys

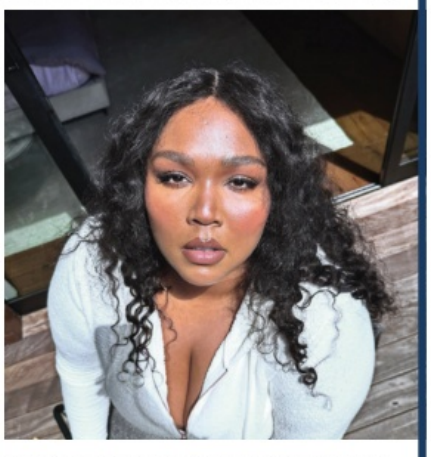
Alicia Keys' 25,000 square foot estate in New Jersey is home to eight bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, a basketball court, a music room, and an indoor pool. However, the most remarkable feature is her personal museum, showcasing collectibles like a 19-foot tall wooden sculpture of Mickey Mouse by Kaws and a 25 x 8.5-foot painting by Kehinde Wiley.

Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Winfrey, the media mogul, is said to own six multimillion-dollar homes. Among them, her $14 million, 8,700-square-foot ski chalet in Colorado stands out, featuring a remarkable 56-foot-long wine cave. The cave is adorned with an antique mine cart and houses an impressive collection of 1,600 bottles of wine.

Lizzo

In Lizzo's West Coast mansion, one of the special rooms serves a dual purpose as an in-house music studio. This unique



space is not only home to the musician-influencer's extensive collection of flutes (some even having names!), but it also played host to David Letterman for an episode of "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction with David Letterman."

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Unique theme, mass entertainer

The shooting of pan-India movie Zebra was completed a few days ago and the team is now busy with post-production activities. Daali Dhananjay and Satyadev have played the lead in this movie that will release in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi.

"It is a unique story and no movie has been made on this subject till date. It is about a bank scam. I cannot reveal more details at this juncture. Its shooting was held for 100 days in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Hyderabad. We wrapped up with a six-day shooting schedule at Shamshabad Airport near Hyderabad a few days ago," said SN Reddy, one of the producers.

As its title suggests, the movie is aimed at mass audiences. This is the 26th movie for Daali Dhananjay as well as Satya Dev. The movie has an ensemble of cast including Priya Bhavani Shankar, Sathya Raj, Jennifer, Sureshchandra Menon, and Kalyani Nataraj. "Telugu comedian-cum-villain Sunil plays an important character" said Reddy.

The movie is bankrolled by Reddy, Bala Sundaram, and Dinesh Sundaram. Eshvar Karthic has written the script and is directing the film, for which music is scored by Ravi Basrur of KGF fame.

Got to theatre, get back to school!

It is the age of relatable themes. Now, Umesh S Hiremath, a businessman from Bailhongal in Belagavi, has bankrolled a movie to make audiences become overcome with nostalgia for their days at high school.

The movie School Days is scheduled for release on November 24. A function was held at Renukamba Preview Theater on Thursday to release its trailer and soundtrack. Former MLA NL Narendra Babu was the chief guest at the function.

"I am a businessman, but I decided to bankroll this movie when the director narrated the script to me. It is quite interesting and relates to all of us by

transporting us to our school days. I play the chairman of the School Development Committee in the movie," said Hiremath, adding that the film was shot in 30 days. Director Sanjay H said the movie focusses on SSLC students. "It was shot in North Karnataka and the dialogues are laced with North Karnataka diction. I am sure the film will take audiences back to their school days. We selected most of the actors through auditions," said Sanjay.